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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

APPLICANTS: Clasbrummel et al.

SERIAL NO.: 10/036,618

GROUP ART UNIT: 3736

FILED: December 21, 2001

CONFIRMATION NO. 4762

TITLE: "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PREPARING AN ANATOMICAL IMPLANT"



Assistant Commissioner for Patents,

Washington, D.C. 20231

SIR:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicants request that citation and examination of the following documents be made during the course of examination of the above-referenced application for United States Letters Patent.

- AA United States Patent No. 5,768,134
- AB United States Patent No. 5,741,215
- AC United States Patent No. 5,706,324
- AD United States Patent No. 5,668,846
- AE United States Patent No. 4,575,805
- AL German OS 199 03 122
- AM German OS 44 21 153

EXPLANATION OF RELEVANCE

Each of the above references was identified and discussed at pages 2 and 3 of the present specification. Reference AC corresponds to German OS 195 12 819 and Reference AD corresponds to German OS 197 38 342.

English translations of References AL and AM are not readily available to the Applicants, however, the aforementioned statements in the specification constitute a summary of their teachings.

Copies of each of the above references together with Form 1449 are submitted herewith.

As of the date of mailing of this Information Disclosure Statement, a first Office Action on the merits has not been received in connection with this application, and therefore, this Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(3), and no fee is necessary.

All claims of the application are submitted to be patentable over the teachings of the above references, taken singly or in combination. Early consideration of the application is therefore respectfully requested.

Submitted by,

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on April 30, 2002.

Steven H. Noll

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